(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time-frame within which it is proposed to be done;

(c) whether Government is also developing its own version of the Global Positioning System; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, ISRO has completed study of human space flight to carry a two member crew to low earth orbit and return them safely to earth. The project report on human space flight is under various stages of approvals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) ISRO is developing a Regional Navigation System for India and neighbourhood areas. This is called Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) and is planned to be operational by 2012-13 timeframe.

Deorbitting of American satellite

†2764. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that one Amercian satellite has left its orbit;

(b) if so, the part of that country where this satellite is likely to fall down and by when;

(c) whether any assessment of the damages to be caused by the falling of this satellite has been made;

(d) if so, the damages that may be caused due to it together with the details of the means to avoid the same; and

(e) the efforts being made by Government to prevent it from falling in any part of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is learnt from the news sources that an American satellite USA 193, which was non-functional since its launch on December 14, 2006, was intercepted by the US Navy Missile SM-3 from the naval ship, USS Lake Erie stationed off Hawaii,on February 21, 2008 (at 0326 hrs GMT), at a very low altitude (below 250 Kms). While this satellite was travelling from North Pacific across America, down towards Atlantic Ocean, it was successfully intercepted by the missile and the satellite exploded into pieces, as claimed.

As this satellite was destroyed at very low orbit, most of the major parts/pieces of the satellite, which are called as space debris, are expected to reach/re-enter the atmosphere within 45 minutes and they would be burnt-up in the atmosphere at very high temperature generated due to friction. It is also expected that rest of debris of small size would also be re-entering within 40 days. Hence, there is no concern that the spacecraft would fall in its full size over any region or country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) As the satellite has been already destroyed in the low earth orbit of about 250 Kms, fragments/small pieces of the defunct satellite that would re-enter the atmosphere get burnt into pieces. Hence, there is no concern about the fall of the satellite. As per the reports, no loss or damage to any property is anticipated *per se.*

(e) As there was no threat to any of the Indian satellites in orbit and also there was no possibility of the pieces/fragments of the satellite falling over Indian region/earth, no special efforts were considered in this regard.

Achievements of space programme

2765. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's space programme is concluding shortly;

(b) what have been the achievements of the programme in brief;

(c) whether any activities are proposed to be taken up shortly based on the experience of developed countries; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) India has achieved self reliance in the areas of (i) building state-of-the-art remote sensing and communication satellites and (ii) launch capability through Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for launching of remote sensing satellites and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) for launching communication satellites. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has used these space systems for developmental applications such as tele-education, telemedicine, Village Resource Centres, natural resources management, etc.

(c) ISRO has long term plans to develop Communication and Navigation Satellites; Remote Sensing Satellites; efficient space transportation system; space exploration; atmospheric sciences and inter-planetary missions. These plans are inline with the plans of developed countries.

(d) Does not arise.

Review of minimum wages

2766. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding National Sample Survey's situation report on farmer households;

(b) the average expenditure of farmer households per month;

(c) the wages of the agricultural labourers during 2007 and what was the same during 2001; and

(d) when was the last review of minimum wages carried out by various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) conducted the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers as a